

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 HEW-04 SS-15  
NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01  
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R 080925Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6437

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E.O. 11652:N/A  
TAGS: SPOP/OTRA (GREEN, MARSHALL)  
SUBJECT: POPULATION: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN, FEBRUARY  
25-MARCH 1

1. DURING VISIT, AMBASSADOR GREEN MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR, DIRECTOR  
BROWN, APPROPRIATE EMBASSY AND USAID OFFICERS, AND MADE PRESENTATION  
TO MISSION STAFF ON "POPULATION PERSPECTIVES."

2. KEY EGYPTIANS CONTACTED WERE DEPPRIMIN KAISOUNI, MINISTER OF  
HEALTH BADRAN, POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING BOARD (PFPB) CHAIRMAN  
AZIZ BINDARY, AND THE SHEIK OF AL AZHAR DR. ABDEL HALIM MAHMOUD.  
FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF VISITS.

3. DR. KAISOUNI SAID THE RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH IS EGYPT'S  
PRIMARY ECONOMIC PROBLEM, INDICATING THAT TWO THIRDS OF THE ANNUAL  
ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE OF NINE PERCENT WILL BE DISSIPATED JUST TO  
MAINTAIN THE CURRENT LEVEL OF LIVING UNLESS THE RATE OF POPULATION  
GROWTH IS CURBED. HE RELATED POPULATION CONCERNS RECENTLY EX-  
PRESSED IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS BY MINISTERS OF HEALTH,  
HOUSING, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. HE WAS WELL AWARE OF RECENT  
REORGANIZATION OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO MOBILIZE THAT MINISTRY'S  
FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES, AND SAID HEALTH MINISTER HAD SOFTENED  
RELIGIOUS OPPOSITION BY PLACING FAMILY PLANNING IN ACCEPTABLE  
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HUMANISTIC TERMS OF MOTHER AND CHILD WELFARE. HE SAID "CRASH"  
PROGRAM IN FAMILY PLANNING WAS NEEDED, AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS  
ENCOURAGING BADRAN IN THIS REGARD. KAISOUNI NOTED THAT FAMILY  
PLANNING MAY NOW BE FREELY DISCUSSED, WHILE BEFORE SUCH WAS NOT  
POSSIBLE.

4. MINISTER BADRAN EARLIER HAD COVERED MANY OF SAME POINTS. HE

DESCRIBED MOH'S FULL ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES, AND DESCRIBED THE MOH COMMITTEE FOR FAMILY PLANNING WHICH COORDINATES MOH ACTIVITIES WITH MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL AFFAIRS, AGRICULTURE, RELIGION (WAFK), PLANNING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND INFORMATION AND CULTURE, AS WELL AS WITH CAPMAS, PFPB, ALL UNIVERSITIES, INSTITUTE OF PLANNING AND EGYPTIAN FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION. BADRAN REFERRED TO VISITING IBRD APPRAISAL TEAM, AND INDICATED HIS HOPE THAT USAID'S MENOUFIA AND HIGH INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH SUB-ACTIVITIES WILL SERVE AS PILOTS FROM WHICH IBRD PROJECT WILL BENEFIT. BADRAN EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF BETTER FAMILY PLANNING TRAINING (IN CONTEXT OF MCH) FOR PHYSICIANS AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. IN REGARD TO LATTER, HE DESCRIBED COMMUNITY INCENTIVE SCHEME UNDER DISCUSSION WITH IBRD, AND OF HIS INTENTION TO LEGITIMATIZE TRADITIONAL BIRTH ATTENDANTS (DAYAS) TO TRAIN, EQUIP, AND USE THEM AS FAMILY PLANNING MOTIVATORS.

5. BINDARY INDICATED HE WAS PLEASED BY INCREASING ROLE PLAYED BY MOH IN FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. HE REPEATED THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND DESCRIBED HIS OWN VERY ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN A PROJECT DESIGNED TO EMPLOY RURAL WOMEN, THEREBY PROVIDING INCOME OPPORTUNITIES AND ALTERNATIVES TO REPEATED CHILD BIRTH. HE SKETCHED A PILOT ACTIVITY ALONG THESE LINES FOR WHICH HE CLAIMS A 70 PERCENT FAMILY PLANNING PARTICIPATION RATE. HE AGREED TO PROVIDE USAID WITH DETAILS OF THIS ONE YEAR OLD EFFORT, WHICH HE SAYS IS BASED ON COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND HAS POTENTIAL FOR FINANCING ITSELF AND FOR REPLICATION. HE DIFFERENTIATED BETWEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES ROLE OF THE MOH AND THE SUPREME COUNCIL'S

ROLE IN COORDINATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF ALL POPULATION RELATED EFFORTS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE SUPREME COUNCIL IS INCREASINGLY ACTIVE. HE PRESENTED THE ROLE OF HIS BOARD AND THAT OF THE MOH AS FULLY COMPLEMENTARY AND MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE. HE STRESSED THE VITAL ROLE THE COMMUNITY ITSELF MUST PLAY, BUT LAMENTED THAT ENTREPRENEURSHIP HAS BEEN STIFLED BY THE EGYPTIAN BUREAUCRACY (WHICH HE CALLED THE FOURTH PYRAMID), AND SAID A PRIMARY TASK OF ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN POPULATION PROBLEMS MUST BE TO TAP AND NURTURE THIS KEY ELEMENT. THROUGHOUT THE MEETING BINDARY STRESSED SOCIAL AS OPPOSED TO ECONOMIC CHANGE (DEVELOPMENT), AND SEEMED TO GENUINELY WELCOME BETTER PROVISION OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES AS A DESIRABLE PART OF THAT SOCIAL CHANGE.

6. THE VISIT TO THE SHEIK OF AL AZHAR WAS SUGGESTED IN ORDER TO MORE FULLY ASSESS THE PORTION OF ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP ON POPULATION ISSUES. THE SHEIK ARGUED SOME STATISTICS SHOWED THAT POPULATION GROWTH RATES WERE DECLINING, NOT INCREASING, BUT RATES NOTWITHSTANDING, BETTER USE OF AVAILABLE ARABLE LAND WOULD SUPPORT A POPULATION OF 100,000,000, AND IF RESOURCES WERE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE US AND OTHERS, THE DESERT WOULD BE CONQUERED AND WOULD SUPPORT 300,000,000. HE SAID THE

SUPREME COUNCIL AND MINISTRY OF HEALTH WERE ACTIVELY PROVIDING PILLS (ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES) AND FAMILY PLANNING INFORMATION ACROSS THE COUNTRY. HE SAID RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF OTHER ISLAMIC COUNTRIES AND THE VATICAN SHARED HIS VIEWS OF NOT BEING IN FAVOR OF SUCH EFFORTS, BUT ADDED, THAT ALTHOUGH HE PERSONALLY DISAGREED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S

POLICY, HE WAS NOT OPPOSING IT THROUGH HIS RELIGIOUS OFFICES. A SEPARATE MEMCOM RELATES OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED.

7. IN LATER BRIEF MEETING WITH HAMED FAHMY, ACTING COORDINATOR FOR UNFPA, FAHMY INDICATED HE THOUGHT BINDARY GENUINELY WELCOMED INCREASED

FAMILY PLANNING EFFORTS BY THE MOH, "A MOVE BINDARY HAS BEEN ENCOURAG-

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ING FOR A LONG PERIOD." FAHMY ELABORATED ON OTHER UNFPA EFFORTS IN WHICH BINDARY IS ACTIVE, INCLUDING THE TRAINING OF THE HEADS OF LOCAL VILLAGE COUNCILS IN MANAGEMENT, ACCOUNTING, AND HOW TO TAP

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 HEW-04 SS-15 NSC-05  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06  
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AVAILABLE FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. AS PART OF PROCESS, BINDARY'S CENTRAL STAFF PROVIDES VILLAGES WITH THE NUMBERS OF REPRODUCTIVE-AGE WOMEN IN THE VILLAGES (FROM CAPMAS DATA), AND THE NUMBERS OF THOSE WOMEN WHO MUST PRACTICE CONTRACEPTION TO ACHIEVE THE GOVERNMENT'S GOALS;

THIS EFFORT STARTED IN JULY Y976, AND HOPES TO REACH 250 VILLAGE COUNCILS IN 19 GOVERNORATES BY THE END OF 1978.

FAHMY INDICATED THAT UNFPA AND USAID COORDINATION WAS INFREQUENT AND COULD BE IMPROVED, BUT LAMENTED THE LACK OF ANY BUT TOKEN COORDINATION BETWEEN FIELD ACTIVITIES OF THE UNFPA AND THE IBRD. WHILE ACCEPTING THAT THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD ACTIVELY COORDINATE DONOR ACTIVITIES, HE FEELS THE DONORS CAN DO MUCH BETTER COORDINATING JOBS THEMSELVES THEN THEY ARE NOW DOING.

8. DURING ALL MEETINGS, AMBASSADOR GREEN STRESSED IMPORTANCE THE US ATTACHES TO HOST GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT, IMPROVED FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES (USING PARAMEDICS), ACTIVE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, AND IMPROVING THE ROLE OF WOMEN.

9. AMBASSADOR GREEN TOLD THE MISSION HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE ATTITUDE  
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HE HAD HEARD EXPRESSED AND THE FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR PROGRESS IN POPULATION REDUCTION. HE EXPRESSED A NEED FOR EVIDENCE OF MORE FORCEFUL GOVERNMENTAL COMMITMENT, EXPANDED USE OF PARAMEDICS, AND A HOPE THAT THE IBRD WILL TRY COMMUNITY INCENTIVE SCHEMES. HE EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT THE POSITIONS OF BINDARY AND BADRAN APPEAR COMPLEMENTARY

HE VIEWS THE IMPROVING OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN A KEY ELEMENT IN ACHIEVING FORWARD MOVEMENT.

10. THE MISSION FOUND THE AMBASSADOR'S VISIT EXTREMELY USEFUL IN ASSESSING THE CURRENT FEELING OF SOME KEY GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND IN FURTHER DEVELOPING OUR MULTI-YEAR POPULATION STRATEGY. DECONTROL FOLLOWING MARCH 7, 1979. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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